

Listing of Claims:

This listing of claims reflects all claim amendments and replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. Material to be inserted is in **bold and underline**, and material to be deleted is in ~~strikeout~~ or (if the deletion is of five or fewer consecutive characters or would be difficult to see) in double brackets [[]].

1-4 (Canceled)

5. (Previously Presented) A method of securing an animal to a fixed object with a securing device, wherein a lead line is coupled to the animal, and wherein the securing device includes a frame and a retaining member coupled to the frame and is mounted to the object, the method comprising:

inserting a segment of the lead line through the frame;

extending the segment of the lead line around the retaining member;

pulling the lead line to bring the lead line into contact with the retaining member to thereby frictionally interlace the lead line with the frame and the retaining member such that a panicked animal can pull a length of lead line through the securing device, wherein the securing device includes a mounting structure coupled to the frame; and

mounting the securing device to the object via the mounting structure before inserting the segment of the lead line through the frame,

wherein mounting the securing device to the object via the mounting structure includes fastening the securing device to the object with an eyebolt coupled to the mounting structure.

6-10 (Canceled)

PLEASE ENTER AMENDMENT SA 2/17/2006